



Choose Environmental Excellence

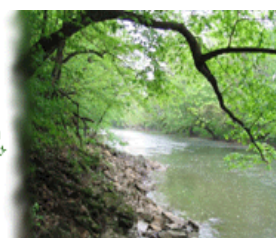
PO Box 8368
Springfield, MO 65802

www.OzarksEnvironment.com

www.springfieldmo.gov/showmeyards

www.springfieldmo.gov/cee

OzarksEnvironment.com



www.OzarksEnvironment.com

This website includes links to area agencies, clubs, and organizations offering environmental and conservation educational resources.

Postings for this website include events, volunteer opportunities, and much, much more.

To post your organization's next event, e-mail the information to:

blucks@springfieldmo.gov



Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence Steering Committee

Barbara Lucks

City of Springfield
Solid Waste Mgt. Division

Kevin Gipson

Springfield/Greene County
Health Department

Marie Steinwachs

University of Missouri
Outreach and Extension

Ryan Mooney

Springfield Area
Chamber of Commerce

Terry Whaley

Ozark Greenways, Inc.

Laurie Duncan

The Discovery Center

Chuck Kroeger

Aquaterra

Dave Fraley

City Utilities of Springfield

Loring Bullard

Watershed Committee
of the Ozarks

Cindy Garner

MO Department of Conservation

Francis Skalicky

MO Department of Conservation

DeDe Vest

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Jon Schimpf

Carlisle Power Transmission

Joe Pitts

James River

Basin Partnership

Becky Fay

University of Missouri

Outreach and Extension

Tim Smith

Greene County

Administrator

Randy Lyman

City of Springfield

Clean Water Services

Robert Hamilton

Solid Waste Management

District "O"

Doug Neidigh

Ozarks Clean Air Alliance and

Drury University—Center for

Sustainable Solutions

Ann Hall

Gary Deaver

Rena Bass

Lynn Feagan



Choose Environmental Excellence 2011 Awards Presented

The Eleventh Annual Springfield/Greene County *Choose Environmental Excellence* awards were presented today, Friday, April 22, 2011, at a luncheon sponsored by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, as a part of Springfield's month-long celebration of Earth Day. Ten agencies or organizations presented awards.

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized the City of Willard for their proactive approach to safeguarding drinking water sources for their citizens. . Since 2006, City staff has worked with the Missouri Rural Water Association and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to complete a Wellhead Protection Plan. Most recently, the City of Willard received a MDNR grant to aide residents in plugging abandoned wells. The City worked with Willard High School to turn an abandoned well into a state certified groundwater monitoring well, now being used by the USGS to monitor ground water levels in southwest Missouri. Matt Keener, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks Operations Manager presented the award. The award was accepted by Tom Keltner, Mayor; Randy Brown, Director of Development and Justin Reaves, Public Works Director. (*Contact: Loring Bullard – 417-866-1127*)

Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized Brad Leonard, a Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) employee and a member of the Missouri National Guard. Brad took it upon himself to initiate recycling for MoDOT employees, their neighbors and people residing close to the MoDOT Regional Offices on Kearney while honoring his National Guard duties and being deployed to the Middle East. Greene County Administrator and Solid Waste Management District "O" Chair, Tim Smith presented the award. (*Contact: Robert Hamilton 417-859-5786*)

The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, presented two awards. Ozarks Transportation Organization was selected for outstanding leadership in air pollution prevention by developing and implementing the web-based Ride Share program found at www.ozarkscommute.com. This program helps the OCAA accomplish a primary goal in the Clean Air Action Plan to reduce vehicle emissions. They also recognized Wil Fisher Distributors for outstanding leadership in air pollution prevention by creating on-site production of bio diesel, a new initiative for the distributing company. Dave Fraley, City Utilities, OCAA member, presented the awards to Natasha Longpine, Executive Director of OTO and to Dr. Jeff Gower, CEO, Will Fischer Distributing, respectively. (*Contact: Doug Neidigh 417-873-7641*)

The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Mike Kromrey, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, for his dedication to the health of our environment and his gracious public service and undying commitment to environmental protection. In addition to his professional career, he recently completed service as co-chair of the Natural Environment component of the City's Strategic Plan effort. James Owen, Chair, presented the award. (*Contact: Karen McKinnis 417-830-1623*).

See Awards, page 2

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Continued from Awards...

The City of Springfield's Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized Bill Roach and Phil Broyles. Bill Roach, a Springfield/Greene County Parks Department employee came out of retirement to help with the aftermath of the 2007 ice storm and stayed on with the Public Works Department, working and volunteering on his own time to protect the urban forest in Springfield. Phil Broyles, Springfield Public Works Co-Interim Director was recognized for his continued support of Springfield's urban forest and of the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee. Committee Chair, Janice Greene, presented the award. (Contact: Casey Kellner- 417- 864-1135, Benjamin Kellner – 417-864-1178)

The Partnership for Sustainability presented their Environmental Excellence Award to Wil Fischer companies recognizing their innovative and successful fleet of alternative fuel vehicles. This will reduce harmful emissions from petroleum based diesel. The company runs vehicles on a blend of propane, unleaded, diesel, bio-diesel, approximately a B-30 blend, and on straight vegetable oil as well. Partnership Chair-elect Bob Norton presented the award. Dr. Jeff Gower, CEO, Wil Fischer Distributing accepted the award. (Contact: Web Freeman 417- 862-8459.)

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Dave Catlin as the recipient of their Environmental Excellence award. He has been an active member of the organization for over 10 years, providing leadership and fundraising talent, including the creation of an endowment for GOAS with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and several successful grant proposals. Myra Scroggs, President of Greater Ozarks Audubon Society, presented the award. (Contact: Myra Scroggs at 417-883-4015.)

Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized the Central High School Environmental Club for their entrepreneurial spirit and initiative exhibited by forming their club, volunteering, and taking the responsibility to learn about business and the environment. Executive Director, Terry Whaley, presented the award. Paul Epps, Central High School, accepted the award. (Contact: Terry Whaley at 417-864-2014.)

Community Partnership of the Ozarks Environmental Collaborative recognized Dave Coonrod for decades of dedication to the protection of the natural environment or the Ozarks. His service includes volunteer work, work as an elected official and as the first Executive Director of the then newly formed Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. Michelle Garand presented the award. (Contact: Barbara Lucks 417-864-2005)

Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists recognized Bob Kipfer for his efforts in a leadership role in

several organizations dedicated to furthering conservation of the natural environment, including offering his picturesque private residence, abundant with flora and fauna as a meeting and educational location. President, Carl Haworth, presented the award. (Contact: Carl Haworth at 417-569-4809)

Choose Environmental Excellence is a voluntary, non-regulatory education program that encourages increased awareness of our impact on our natural environment, presents viable alternatives and recognizes accomplishments that foster environmentally responsible decisions.

For additional information, contact Barbara Lucks,
Project Coordinator Springfield-Greene
County Choose Environmental Excellence
at 417-864-2005.

For a listing of past and present
Choose Environmental Excellence Awards, visit:

www.springfieldmogov.org/cee
www.OzarksEnvironment.com

Operation Medicine Drop – a Huge Success!



Safe Kids Springfield, along with law enforcement agencies across southwest Missouri, Community Partnership of the Ozarks and the Missouri Poison Center, sponsored a regional medication take-back program called Operation Medicine Drop. The program was designed to prevent accidental poisonings and substance abuse, while protecting the environment. The program included 5 collection events, brining in a total of 463 pounds of expired/unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. The medications were incinerated and the pill bottles were recycled. Rose Watson, City of Springfield Solid Waste Management Division, reported over 16 bags of pill bottles has been recycled. To date, regionally, including the DEA events, nearly one ton of meds have been successfully collected and destroyed.

These events were held in addition to the September, 2010 and April, 2011, DEA sponsored national drug take-back events. The DEA is also sponsoring a national drug take-back initiative on April 30th, 2011. Many Safe Kids partners have already signed on to host additional events.

For more information on future local collections, visit:
www.OzarksEnvironment.com

NEW Environmental Resource Center



Construction and renovation for the City of Springfield's new Environmental Resource Center began on March 7, 2011 and is expected to be completed by Fall, 2011. Funding for this project is from the Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund – *No general revenue, no tax funding!* The Resource Center will be the new home of the Solid Waste Management Division, Clean Water Services Education Staff, Ozark Greenways, and Storm Water Services Water Quality Section Staff plus provide three community meeting rooms

Project Features include: LEED Silver Level, reuse of existing site, access to public transportation, encourages low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles, future vehicle electric charging station, alternative transportation – parking capacity, roof materials to reduce heat island effect, water use reduction, optimal energy performance, solar heating system for domestic hot water, variable-refrigerant mechanical system, enhanced insulation for better climate control, thermal comfort design/verification, construction waste management, recycled content of materials, regionally available materials, certified wood products, outdoor air delivery monitoring, indoor air quality management during construction/before occupancy, low-emitting materials, natural indoor lighting, rainwater harvesting and reuse, native and low-maintenance plantings and water-efficient landscaping.

Contractor:

Storee Construction, Strafford

Contractor's LEED Accredited Professional:

Jennifer Wilson, AIA, LEED AP, Springfield

Architect:

Randy Dunlap, AIA, Springfield Public Works

LEED Accredited Professional:

Lisa Drew-Alton, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, Springfield

Mechanical Engineering:

Malone Finkle, Eckhardt and Collins, Springfield

Structural Engineering:

Jeff Wells and Angie Scaletty, Springfield

Recycling Services:

Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Springfield

Allied Waste, Springfield

Project Managers:

Doug Durrington and Barbara Lucks,
Springfield Public Works

www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling
www.OzarksEnvironment.com

TIPS for Recycling at Home....



1. Find out what kinds/types of materials your local recycling center and/or curbside recycler accepts. For Springfield and surrounding, call the recycling hotline at 417-864-1904 or visit our websites at:

www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling or
www.OzarksEnvironment.com

2. Select your container. You can use containers you may already have or you may want to purchase a number of tough plastic bins so you can sort your recyclable materials. When recycling at your local recycling centers, your materials will need to be separated. If using a curbside recycling service, check with your hauler to see if they require separation also. Some curbside services are now offering single stream/commingled recycling which does not require separation of recyclables. Containers are frequently furnished by curbside service providers.

Re-Use....

Reuse what you can. Re-usable items are the most environmentally friendly choices when purchasing items such as water bottles, lunch bags, kitchen items and more.

"A Guide to Recycling in Springfield"....

For a listing of over 120 locations that accept a wide variety of materials, call the Recycling Hotline to request a hard copy or visit:

www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling
www.OzarksEnvironment.com

Buy Recycled....

Buy Recycled....When purchasing items, look for recycled content products. For example, when purchasing that next box of snacks, check to see if that box is made from recycled paper or other recycled contents and how much. Many high-quality construction materials are now available made from recycled materials.



**Questions?
Recycling Hotline
417-864-1904**

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Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists Fall Training



The Springfield Plateau Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists class will be offering training this fall. Although training is five months away, the schedule is already set. If you are interested in the Master Naturalist program in this area, please contact Jay Barber at Jay.Barber@mdc.mo.gov. See the [tentative](#) schedule below:

Orientation (MANDATORY)

Attend one of the two available

Thursday, August 11th, 6:30 pm

Location: Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Office—2630 N. Mayfair Drive

Tuesday, August 16th, 6:30 pm

Location: Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Office—2630 N. Mayfair Drive

Classroom Sessions—Thursdays 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

September 8th, 15th, and 22nd

October 6th, 13th and 27th

Field Sessions—Saturdays 9 am – 4 pm

September 10th and 24th

October 8th and 22nd

Topics include: Four key ecological principles, natural resource management, the role and skills of a naturalist, prairies, basic ecological concepts, eco regions, watersheds and their management, the role of conservation agencies, karst, forest ecology, tree ID, role of enforcement in resource management, conservation and conservation ethic, glades: their management and ecology, streams, lakes/ponds, and wetlands, forests and their ecology and urban Systems.



Master Naturalists Class of 2009

The Master Naturalists Annual report for 2010 is now available online at:

www.OzarksEnvironment.com

Spring-Time at the Botanical Center



Upcoming Events

- April 16 – Tablescapes: Easter and the Birth of Spring
- April 22 – Earth Day Activities
- April 23-24 – Easter Weekend Activities
- April 28 – Little Critter “Walk-A-‘Bout”
- April 30 – Master Gardener Plant Sale and Stained Glass Window Dedication
- May 7 – Public Gardens Day
- May 14 – Butterfly House opens – weekends 10am-6pm
- May 21 – 4th Annual Young Sprouts in the Garden hosted by Master Gardeners of Greene County – activities for kids!
- June 24-26 – 4-H Vegetable and Horticulture Exhibit
- July 16-17 – Butterfly Festival

Workshops offered by the Gray-Campbell Farmstead

For information and registration, call 725-4921 or email atkinsonplace@sbcglobal.net

- Beginning Knitting – May 1st, 2-4 pm. Min. age 7, \$10.00 per person + 1 ball of knitting worsted cotton yarn and size 8-10 needles.
- Wagon Train Dolls - May 14th, 2-4 pm. Min. age 10, materials provided, \$10.00 per doll.
- Hearth Cooking – May 21st, 2-4pm. Min. age 15, materials provided, \$30.00 per person, maximum class size-6 persons
- Period Lap Quilting – 3 sessions to complete wall hanging, June 4(2-4pm), 11(2-4pm), 18(2-4pm). Material provided, \$40.00 per person + scissors. Registration deadline May 15
- Basketweaving – July 2, 2-4pm. Min. age 15, materials provided, \$25.00 per person, max. class size-6 persons

Free Activities

- Wednesdays are Work Days! Kickapoo Edge Prairie – Get involved! To RSVP, and if you have questions, contact Ric Mayer at rmayer@springfieldmo.gov or 417-353-6422.
- April 6— 6:30pm GO! Floating—Discover the world of canoeing, kayaking and rafting on lakes and rivers in this educational classroom presentation.
- April 16 –9am-12pm Hostas Dig and Divide—Learn how to make more plants with this simple plant propagation method. Tom Lakowske, Greater Ozark Hosta Society
- May 11—6:30 pm GO! Wildflowers—Learn about the prairies of Missouri and enjoy the beauty of Missouri’s natural flowers by walking through the gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Parks.

For more information, visit the Botanical Centers website at:

www.botanicalcenter.org

41st Annual Earth Day Celebrations



Discovery Center of Springfield...

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, Springfield celebrated Earth Day with an event, sponsored by Choose Environmental Excellence and the Partnership for Sustainability, at the Discovery Center of Springfield. Admission to the Discovery Center was free all day with approximately 1500 people in attendance. Environmental exhibits were on display from 9am – 4pm that day. Some of the special activities held included: a make and take paper recycling activity sponsored by Nestle Purina PetCare and a very successful light bulb exchange.

The light bulb exchange was sponsored and hosted by the Partnership for Sustainability and Harry Cooper Supply. The exchange gave out about 5,090 CFL bulbs which, by conservative estimates, will save more than \$200,000 in energy costs. An unintended benefit came of the old incandescent bulbs. Those burned out will be given to the store Anthropologie for use in window displays. Those bulbs that worked were donated to a support group with neurological problems and brain injuries for whom the flicker from fluorescent bulbs can be problematic. Ultimately, no old bulbs were thrown away.



Left: City of Springfield Information/Education Display
Right: Make and Take Paper Recycling Bag Activity at the Nestle Purina PetCare Display



Computer Recycling Center...

To celebrate Earth Day, the Computer Recycling Center hosted an Earth Day e-waste collection event. The event was held at the Computer Recycling Center, located at 1434 N. National, on Saturday, April 16th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 150 televisions were recycled that day, making it an Earth Day record for the Center for television recycling.

For a complete listing of Earth Day activities to be held throughout the month of April, visit:

www.OzarksEnvironment.com

Children and Nature Challenge



On Monday, April 11, 2011, Missouri First Lady Georganne Nixon recognized the City of Springfield as the first community in Missouri to achieve the Children in Nature Challenge in a ceremony at the Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park. The Children in Nature Challenge was created by executive order to challenge Missouri communities to take action to enhance children’s education about nature and to increase children’s opportunities to personally experience nature and the outdoors. During the event, Mrs. Nixon took a tour of the farm and read to the children. She also joined them in planting some vegetable plants in the teaching garden area.

For more information on the Children in Nature Challenge and how communities can take the challenge, visit:

<http://childreninnature.mo.gov/>

PGMS Ozarks Branch Sponsors Regional Conference in Springfield



The Professional Grounds Management Society held its Regional two day Conference in Springfield on April 7-8, 2011. The conference kicked off with a presentation and lunch at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. Following lunch, the 60+ grounds maintenance professional in attendance were given the opportunity to mingle with other professionals from California to Connecticut and Montana to Florida. The first day tours included: Highland Springs Country Club, Nathaniel Greene Park and the Springfield Botanical Center with a reception sponsored by Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods. Day two included a chance to visit with special program sponsors and exhibitors including James River Basin Partnership, Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods and Davey Tree Services. This was then followed by four quality education presentations and 4-hour walking tour of sites around Downtown Springfield.

For photos and more information on PGMS (Professional Grounds Management Society), visit:

www.pgms.org

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Greene County Resource Management Update



The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Groundwater Study, which was completed in November, 2010, is now available for download at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5227/>. This joint agency study depicts the changes in the Ozark aquifer since the 1989 study and the groundwater model will assist in predicting future water use scenarios through the year 2030.

In cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a storm debris cleanup along Wilson Creek is scheduled to be completed by the end of June, 2011. This joint effort between NRCS and Greene County will make the eleventh site cleared since beginning the program in 2007.

Between 2008 and 2010, using Parks and Stormwater tax funding, Greene County purchased and demolished thirteen homes located within a flood-prone neighborhood. Built prior to the establishment of zoning regulations, these homes had been constructed within a former stream channel. By removing these homes and restructuring the channel, it now provides a beautiful open space for a future linear park.



6-23-08
Before



11-10-10
After

Bike, Bus, Walk Week
May 16th – 20st



Ozark Greenways will host the 14th annual “Bike, Bus, Walk to Work Week” event to challenge Springfield area residents to get to work or school at least one day during that week without a car. Whether it’s riding a bike, taking public transportation, walking, carpooling, telecommuting or any combination of these – their goal is to highlight current alternative transportation options in Springfield and especially support future expansion.

The challenge kicks off with Ozark Greenways and Queen City Cycles at Patton Alley Pub for a "Bike-in Movie" double-feature, Breaking Away and Pee Wee's Big Adventure, Monday, May 16, 7-10pm. \$5 gets you into the movie, discounted Fat Tire ale, and a donation to OG! Other highlights of the May 16th – 20st week long challenge includes:

- *Voucher for a FREE breakfast at Panera Bread to everyone who participates at least one day that week! (bagel & coffee)
- *Free city bus rides all week for those traveling with a bike from City Utilities.
- *Free use of showers/towels at the YMCA’s and all Cox Fitness Centers
- *Chance to win cool Ozark Greenways ballcaps
- *Feeling good about helping create a bike/pedestrians friendly Springfield. Keep doing it.

Current alternative transportation infrastructure in Springfield includes: greenway trails, on-street bike route system and City Buses that all have bike racks on the front. They will even plan your commute route, call (417) 864-2015!

For those wishing to take the annual challenge and show support for our community’s expanded infrastructure for alternative transportation, they should register online representing their workplace or school or call (417) 864-2015. To register online visit Ozark Greenways website at:

It's free and easy to take the Challenge. Register your workplace or school here. Questions? Email us.

www.ozarkgreenways.org

News from Project WET



In the last few months, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshops have continued to educate a wide variety of groups, state-wide. In southwest Missouri, a joint Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree workshop was held in November 2010 and had great attendance. Education professors at MSU have been using WET as part of their classes as well. Project WET will be a part of a 3-day teacher workshop, June 14-16, 2011. This workshop will be in conjunction with the James River Basin Partnership as they educate teachers within their watershed.

Project WET has also recently secured 4-year grant funding for 15 state-wide workshops with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as part of their 319 program. These workshops will begin in the fall of 2011 and will focus on areas of the state that fall into the 303(d) listing. Workshops offered in our part of the state include Cassville, Springfield, and Joplin. Also included are Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, Hannibal, Kirksville, Trenton, Lake of the Ozarks, Dexter, Nevada and Cape Girardeau. In addition, this grant will help support the work of our volunteer Project WET facilitators--this program wouldn't be strong without them! Finally, Project WET just recently was awarded a Conservation Federation of Missouri grant to provide Project WET training to teachers participating in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Environmental camps, which begin this spring. Students from a Columbia middle school will have the opportunity to attend a 2 1/2 day camp at Mark Twain State Park and their teachers will receive Project WET training, while their students are attending sessions of their own.

For more information regarding Project WET, contact Ericka Cox at:

Or visit:
www.projectwet.org



Fun Facts:
Harvesting 1 inch of rain can generate 600 – 1,000 gallons of water
Recycling paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water per ton

Ozarks GreenScore Update



The mission of the Ozarks GreenScore is to educate, motivate and assist area businesses and organizations in adopting environmentally sustainable practices. GreenScore worksheets are tools to quantitatively assess the organizations’ performance on key criteria such as waste management, energy management, policy management, etc. Organizations are recognized as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Green members based on their performance. Informational resources and technical assistance is available through the program to assist organizations in completing the worksheet, as well as, identifying and implementing additional opportunities to reduce waste and save money.

Ozarks GreenScore is for any organization that is interested in proactively protecting the environment, reducing operational costs and becoming a model for other organizations. The following businesses are already members:

- Green Level Members:**
BKD, LLP - CPA’s and Advisors
- Gold Level Members:**
Discovery Center of Springfield
- Silver Level Members:**
Greenstay Hotel & Suites
Stamina Products, Inc.
K&S Wire Products, Inc.
Drury University
Global Fayre
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

- Bronze Level Members:**
DeWitt & Associates, Inc
Baymont Inn & Suites
Lamplighter Inn & Suites South

For more information regarding the Ozarks GreenScore Program, log onto:

www.ozarksgreenscore.com

Ozarks GreenScore program presented by:



City of Springfield Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant Receives Top Honor for 2010



The City of Springfield's wastewater treatment plants and Springfield Clean Water Services Division staff received recognition at the Missouri Water Environment Association (MWEA) Conference at Lake of the Ozarks during award ceremonies held Monday, March 28. The MWEA is a non-profit industry organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of water quality and water resources, and the relationship of these resources to the environment.

The Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWTP) received the top honor —2010 Plant of the Year for plants treating more than 5 million gallons per day. The plant was given this honor based on outstanding operations and maintenance, and a track record of consistent compliance. Ed Malter, Superintendent of Clean Water Services for the City of Springfield, accepted the award.

During the presentation, MWEA judge Al Callier said of the judging team's visit to the plant, "The pride for the plant is shown from the plant management level down to every worker. The enthusiasm of a well-managed, operated and maintained facility was experienced as soon as we arrived at the plant."

In other awards, Randy Lyman was given the 2011 Golden Manhole Award, an honor recognizing his 39 years of exceptional professional service. Previous City of Springfield recipients are Wayne Latimar and Kevin Swearengin. The award recognizes exceptional performance and service to municipalities and public utilities. Selection is based on contributions individuals have made to the operation, maintenance or design of collection systems, with an emphasis on pride, safety, teamwork, education, professionalism and leadership.

For more information, log onto:
www.springfieldmo.gov/sanitary



2011 Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Announcement



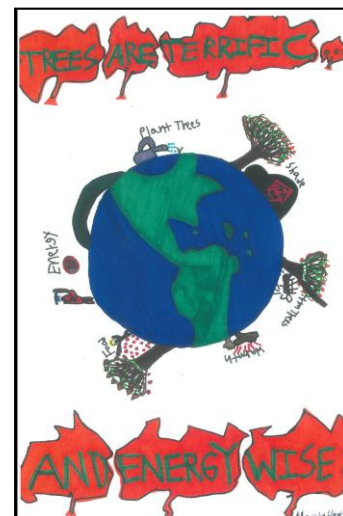
Field Elementary School student Noah Henkle is the overall citywide winner of the 2011 Springfield 5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Noah's poster was selected by local tree experts, the Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) and the Springfield Tree City USA Citizens' Advisory Committee. The local contest is part of the MCFC and Forest ReLeaf sponsored state competition. The contest asked students to create a poster reflecting the theme "Trees are Terrific ... and Energy Wise!" Nearly 300 fifth-grade students from Springfield area schools participated this year. Noah's winning poster design is included below this article.

As the citywide first place winner, Noah will receive a gift from the Missouri Department of Conservation, a framed certificate from Springfield City Council and the Tree City USA Citizens' Advisory Committee, a one-year pass to Dickerson Park Zoo for his family and a tree coupon from City Utilities. A tree also will be planted at Noah's school in honor of Noah and his teacher, Debbie Bradley, by Springfield Public Schools and the Springfield Public Works Department. The tree will be listed in the Springfield Tree Registry as the "Henkle/Bradley American Hornbeam."

A tree planting ceremony and a reading of Springfield's Arbor Day Proclamation was held at Field Elementary School at 1 p.m., Friday, April 8, 2011 to honor Noah and celebrate Springfield's Arbor Day. All winning students will be honored at a tree planting ceremony at their school during the month of April.

For more information on the Springfield 5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest and Springfield Arbor Day Celebration, please call the Springfield Public Works Urban Forestry Office at: (417) 864-1135.



For more information on this news release, contact:
Casey Jo Kellner, Public Works Urban Forester, at: (417) 864-1135.

**2011 Arbor Day Poster
Contest Winning Poster
by Noah Hinkle**

Watershed Center Update



Construction of the main Watershed Center Education Building is near completion!

The fall had seen a flurry of activity at the Watershed Center. Carson-Mitchell Inc., the contractor working on the Education Building, has raised the walls and installed the roof and windows. If you would like to tour their LEED Gold facility as it is going up, just contact us at the Watershed Committee office, 417-866-1127. They are happy to show people their progress!



Watershed Committee News

Governor Nixon Announces WCO DNR Trails Grant

Governor Jay Nixon announced four Trails Grants for southwest Missouri Thursday, March 24th at the Lakeside Pavilion at Valley Water Mill Park. The Watershed Committee was one of the recipients of the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) Trails Grant, which will provide an ADA Accessible trail, connecting the Lakeside Pavilion to the new Watershed Center Education Building and help construct trailhead parking. The Governor toured part of the trail with Matt Keener, Operations Manager and Stuart Murr, Board Chair.



Outdoor Initiatives Announces 2011 Camps for Families, Youth and Teens



Free Camping Weekend

Ritter Springs Park, Farm Rd 92 & 129.
Age: Families & Groups.
Date: Apr 8-10.
Time: 5/6 pm, Fri thru 3 pm, Sun.
Fee: FREE!

Camp Adventure Family – Group Trip Camps

- **St. Louis Nature Adventures**—June 25-26.
- **Capital Nature Adventures**—July 23-24.

Age: Families &/or Groups.
Time: 7:30 a.m./Sat – 6:30 p.m./Sun.
Fee: \$40/Individual, \$70/Family-Group of 3 with each add/\$25. Advance registration required by the prior Sat.

Camp Ritter Family – Group Camping

Ritter Springs Park, Farm Rd 92 & 129.
Age: All.
Date: Apr 29-30, May 20-21, & Sep 30 – Oct 1.
Time: 5/6 p.m./Fri thru 4 p.m./Sat.
Fee: \$25/1-3; \$5/Ea. additional person; Under 6 free.

Camp Challenge Youth - Teen Trip Camps

- **Ha Ha Tonka State Park/Lake of the Ozarks**, June 14-16;
- **Oklahoma's Lake Oologah**, June 28-30;
- **Paddy Creek Wilderness**, July 12-14;
- **Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park**, July 26-28;
- **Arkansas's Boston Mts.**, August 9-11;

All Youth – Teen trips depart from the Tom Watkins Center. Provided: program equipment, 6-meals, snacks, 3-Staff, tents, & transportation. Advance registration required 1-week in advance; \$10 late fee thereafter.

Age: 9-15.
Time: 7:30 am, Tue thru 5:30 pm, Thu.
Fee: \$75/Trip, Save w. 3 or more Trips/\$60/Trip.

For more information on schedules, closings, guidelines, group information and more, feel free to contact:

Melvin Johnson
417-833-8647
mjohnson@springfieldmo.gov
Kara Warren
417-833-8923
kwarren@springfieldmo.gov

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